



Stephens City Newsletter

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 6 NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2008

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Snow Removal- Page 2
- Holiday Gift Ideas - Page 3
- Water and Sewer Billing- Page 3
- Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes- Page 3

Stephens City Newsletter is published by the Town Government of Stephens City for its citizens, to inform, to apprise, and to clarify the issues and undertakings before the Town Government. Citizen feedback is encouraged. Contact the Town Office at 1033 Locust Street weekdays between the hours of 8:30a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or by mail: P.O. Box 250, Stephens City, VA 22655

Phone: 869-3087 Fax: 869-6166 Police: 868-1012 Website: www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov

Christmas on the Commons

(Sponsored by the Stephens City Business Association)



Saturday, December 6, 2008
3:30pm to 6:30pm
At the Newtown Commons



This will be a social celebration for family and friends.

There will be ornament decorating for children 5th grade and below, cookies and seasonal drinks (Hot Chocolate and Hot Apple Cider), Caroling, a Tree Lighting ceremony and you never know what special guest might show up.

Schedule:

- 3:30pm- Kid's on the Commons** *(This will be a time to participate in ornament decorating for the Town Christmas Tree)*
- 4:30pm- Deck the Halls** *(Children and Parents, Grandparents, friends will decorate the Town Tree)*
- 5:00pm- Cookies and Cider on the Commons**
- 5:30pm- Caroling on the Commons**
- 6:00pm- Tree Lighting**
(or upon darkness)

**Come One, Come All to
Christmas on the Commons**



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Christmas on the Commons	1
From the Town Manager's Desk	2
Message from American Disposal Services	2
The Planner's Corner	3
Town Calendar	4
250th Spotlight	4



*Recycled Christmas
Trees will be picked
up on Wednesday,
January 7th and 14th,
2009*

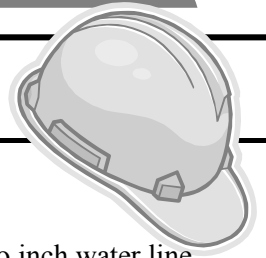
SNOW REMOVAL

The almanac says there will be a lot of snow this winter, so in short this is what is required by the Town Code.

Property owners or occupants must clear all public sidewalks of snow where sidewalks front their property.

This must be done within 6 hours after snow has ceased to fall or no later than noon the next day if snowfall stops overnight. Please contact the Town Office if you have any questions.

From the Town Manager's Desk...



Water and Sewer Improvements

The Town recently completed two water and sewer line projects. A two inch water line was replaced on Stephens Court with a 6 inch water line along with a new fire hydrant. New PVC sewer line was also installed on the same street to replace the existing deficient clay sewer lines. People who live on Crooked Lane and Rowe lane also were provided with sewer service for the first time. These streets were part of a Community Block Grant project through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. Both projects were put out for bid this past spring and came under the projected costs of the Town's Engineer. Several mainline water valves were also installed or replaced that will help to reduce the number of customers who will have their water service disrupted during future water repair work or emergencies.

COSTUMER AWARENESS



Dear Residents of Stephens City;

Did you know that trash collectors are in the top 9 most dangerous jobs in America? Everyday our employees are exposed not only to hazards of working on the roads in Northern Virginia, but to a small percentage of our customers that disposes of syringe/needles improperly in trash bags. This exposes our employees to risk of HIV and Hepatitis B, two deadly blood-borne diseases. The following information will ensure the safety of our employees and protect them from getting injured on the job.

It is imperative that proper steps are taken when disposing of syringe/needles. To ensure the safety of our crews, we would like to inform you of how you can dispose of these items.

- 1. Return them to either the physician or hospital in which they were received.**
- 2. Placing them in a thick, hard plastic bottle (like a detergent bottle) with a secured lid. Syringes /needles or any sharp items should never be disposed of in just a plastic or paper bag.**

Please help us safeguard our employee's health and future by disposing of syringe/needles properly. Your time and concern is appreciated. If you have any questions, please call our Customer Service Department Monday through Friday from 8:00AM to 4:30PM at 703-368-0500.

American Disposal Services

Water and Sewer Billing

Water and sewer bills for the bi-monthly billing ending **October 28, 2008** will be due and payable on **December 3, 2008**.

After **December 3, 2008** a **10% penalty** will be added. On **December 10, 2008** service may be discontinued for delinquency. A reconnect fee of **\$25** plus the full

amount of the bill must be paid before service can be restored.

Just a reminder that for your convenience a night drop is available at the Town Office for dropping off check or money order payments and payments can now be made online at the Town's website. Only Water/Sewer, Personal & Real Estate Bills can be paid

using a Visa or MasterCard! If you pay a bill online after the due date, you will still be responsible for the 10% penalty and if the bill is paid after the shut off date, the \$25 reconnect fee will need to be paid as well, prior to reconnection.

Please do not put cash in the drop box!

2008 REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES

You will soon receive your second half bills for real and personal property taxes. The taxes are due by December 5th.

Remember you cannot purchase a 2009 decal if the personal property taxes are not paid.

Real estate tax bills were sent to both the owners and the mortgage

companies that requested them. Please feel free to contact the office if you have any concerns about your real estate taxes being sent for payment from an escrow account. Most mortgage companies use a third party agent to pay taxes, so we will not be able to tell which institution it was requested by, but only that it was requested.

Gifts for Holidays

Do you need a gift for the person who has almost everything?

How about a local Commemorative from the Newtown Heritage Festival, a Christmas Ornaments that benefits the Peter B. Stickley Foundation or even a Commemorative celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Town.

Come on in to the Town Office and see if you can find that perfect gift that celebrates your Town's Heritage!

BARGAINS AVAILABLE!

The Planner's Corner... (and Director of Economic Development)

Stephens City Business Association:

When you work for a small town, you tend to wear many different hats on a day to day basis. My job is no different and in this article I am turning my attention to Economic Development.

There is some excitement being created amongst the Town and Businesses that make up the character of the Town of Stephens City and the surrounding areas. There are many great businesses that serve our community and in the coming year it is the Town's goal to make the community at large get to know these businesses even better. It is also the goal for these businesses to reach out to the community and invite you come see them.

Currently the Town is working on creating the Stephens City Business Associa-

tion that will help to sponsor local events and increase their own visibility within the Stephens City community and beyond.

As you might have noticed on the front page, the first sponsored event of the Stephens City Business Association is "Christmas on the Commons" and this will hopefully be the first of several events of this nature.

However, prior to getting a jump on the fast approaching New Year, the Town of Stephens City would like to invite our businesses in to meet each other and hear about some of the ideas and goals within the coming year. On Wednesday,

**December 3, 2008 at the Town Office
3:00pm—5:00pm**

The Town will be sponsoring a afternoon social for the businesses within Stephens City and the surrounding area to discuss the goals of the Stephens City Business Association and talk about the future of business partnerships through the creation of the Stephens City Business Association. If you own a small business of any nature or have a business license within the Town, please plan on attending this event. There will be two presentations for those who cannot make it for the entire time. Invitations will also be sent out in the coming week! I look forward to the New Year and the new adventures that a New year can bring.

Till the next newsletter, this is the Planner's Corner.

Brian Henshaw
Town Planner

Town Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

Nov.	4	Town Council Meeting at 7:30pm
Nov.	6	Dr. Peter B. Stickley Foundation at 7:30pm
Nov.	10	Personnel Committee meeting at 5:00pm
Nov.	12	Historic Preservation Committee at 3:00pm
Nov.	19	NHF meeting at 7:30pm
Nov.	20	Water/ Sewer meeting at 9:00 am Public Works meeting at 9:30 am
Nov.	24	Parks & Recreation Commission at 7:30pm
Nov.	26	Finance at 5:00pm
Nov.	27	Thanksgiving Day - Town Office Closed.
Nov.	28	Town Office Closed



* All meetings subject to change without notice w/ the exception of the Town Council meeting.

DECEMBER

Dec.	2	Town Council Meeting at 7:30pm.
Dec..	3	Water/ Sewer Bills Due without penalty
Dec.	4	Penalties added to Water/Sewer Bills Dr. Peter B. Stickley Meeting at 7:30p.m.
Dec.	9	Planning Commission at 7:30pm
Dec.	10	Water/ Sewer Shut off Date
Dec.	18	Water/ Sewer Meeting at 9:00am Public Works Meeting at 9:30am
Dec.	22	Parks & Recreation Commission at 7:30pm
Dec.	24	Christmas Eve - Town Office Closed
Dec.	25	Christmas Day- Town Office Closed



We're on the web!
www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov

The 250th Spotlight!

The 250th anniversary of the founding of Stephens City was celebrated on Founders Day weekend held on October 11th and 12th, 2008. It was an eventful weekend and fun for all those who attended.



Featured commemoratives were a new book called *Images of Stephens City* by Butch Fravel and Byron Smith and a painting of the early Stephen's settlement by local artist Dot Henkel.



Copies of the book are available at Newtown History Center and online book stores. Prints of the painting are available at the Stephens City town office and Artistically Framed Art Shop, 341 Fairfax Pike.